

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claim 11, and claims 13-19 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims, including adding new claim 20, as follows:

1. (Original) A food chopper comprising:

a housing for receiving a food item,

a blade assembly including a blade and moveable within the housing for chopping the food item,

a shaft attached to the blade assembly for movement therewith,

a plunger assembly coupled to the shaft for effecting reciprocating and rotational movement thereof,

and a shock absorber disposed between the plunger assembly and the shaft.

2. (Original) The chopper of claim 1, wherein the shock absorber comprises an elastomeric body.

3. (Original) The chopper of claim 1, wherein the shaft has an axial bore formed in an end thereof, the plunger having a post coaxially received in the bore, the shock absorber being disposed between the post and an inner end of the bore.

4. (Original) The chopper of claim 3, wherein the post has a recess in an inner end thereof, the shock absorber having a portion receivable in the recess.

5. (Original) The chopper of claim 1, and further comprising structure for latching the plunger assembly to the shaft.

6. (Original) The chopper of claim 5, wherein the structure includes snap-fittable interlocking flanges respectively formed on the plunger assembly and the shaft.

7. (Original) The chopper of claim 1, wherein there is a threaded connection between the shaft and the blade assembly.

8. (Currently Amended) A food chopper comprising:
a housing for receiving a food item,
a blade assembly including a blade, the blade assembly reciprocable and rotatable and moveable within the housing for chopping the food item,
a shaft threadedly connected to the blade assembly for movement therewith, and
a plunger assembly coupled to the shaft for effecting reciprocating and rotational movement thereof, and
cooperating structure on the shaft and on the blade assembly for indicating when the shaft has been threadedly engaged with the blade assembly in a mounted condition.

9. (Currently Amended) The chopper of claim 8 10, wherein the blade assembly includes a cylindrical neck which is threadedly connected to the shaft.

10. (Currently Amended) the chopper of claim 9 10, wherein the neck is a hollow tubular construction which is internally threaded for threadedly receiving the shaft therein.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The chopper of claim 8 11, wherein the cooperating detent structure includes a bifurcated end on the shaft, and a recess detent recesses on the blade assembly for receiving the bifurcated end.

13. Canceled.

14. Canceled.

15. Canceled.

16. Canceled.

17. Canceled.

18. Canceled.

19. Canceled.

20. (New) The chopper of claim 8 wherein the cooperating structure includes a recess in the blade assembly and a resilient lower end of the shaft resiliently receivable within the blade assembly recess.